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Security Council

Seventy-second year

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Wednesday, 17 May 2017, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Bermúdez	(Uruguay)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mrs. Gueguen
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Fesko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 5 May 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/404)

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2017/408)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 5 May 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/404)

Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia (S/2017/408)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Somalia to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Raisedon Zenenga, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia; and Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Mr. Zenenga and Mr. Madeira are joining this meeting via video-teleconference from Mogadishu.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/404, which contains a letter dated 5 May 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, and document S/2017/408, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on Somalia.

I now give the floor to Mr. Zenenga.

Mr. Zenenga: When Special Representative of the Secretary-General Keating addressed the Council two months ago (see S/PV.7905), Somalia's new Cabinet had just been announced and the Secretary-General had just visited the country at a time that he aptly described as a moment of both tragedy and hope.

The tragedy, emanating from the severe drought, continues to unfold. The humanitarian crisis has deteriorated more rapidly than was originally projected. Assessments conducted in April indicate critical levels of acute malnutrition among pastoral and agricultural populations, and also among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baidoa and Mogadishu. The expected relief from the Gu rains has not materialized. The rains arrived late and a substantial loss of livestock has already occurred. Food security is also expected to further decline. The crisis is unlikely to abate any time soon. Mortality and protection risks, especially for women and children, continue to rise as drought conditions force nomads to migrate from rural areas to towns. Sexual violence in the IDP camps is on the rise.

The scaled-up response of the humanitarian agencies has averted a famine thus far, but the crisis is unlikely to abate any time soon. The needs for humanitarian assistance are increasing faster than the pace of the response. So far, only half of the 3 million people in need of food have been reached. A total of $669 million has been received or pledged for the ongoing humanitarian effort, leaving a gap of $831 million in the revised 2017 humanitarian response plan. Donor contributions and commitments therefore need to be further scaled up.

In parallel, steps must be taken to build Somalia's capacity to withstand recurrent humanitarian crises triggered by extreme climatic conditions. Somalia will continue to lurch from one avoidable humanitarian crisis to another unless resilience is fostered by addressing the country's structural problems. Investment in capacity-building for relevant State institutions and development-oriented approaches should be prioritized to enable the country to better cope with future humanitarian crises. Improving security, generating revenues and fighting corruption will also increase resilience.

Somalia now has a unique opportunity to overcome its current fragility and build a functional State in the coming four years. To realize this vision, the country needs to make progress on the following priorities.

The first is building security and police forces that are capable of protecting its population and that can start taking over responsibility for security from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The second is promoting economic recovery so that it can generate revenues, create jobs, start delivering basic social services and reduce the country's overdependence on donors. The third is instituting appropriate measures for effective management of public funds, coupled with rooting out corruption — which is as great a threat to stability as the prevailing insecurity — and accelerating

progress in clearing arrears in order to secure financing from international financial institutions through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative process. The fourth is completing the review of the Constitution and strengthening federalism. The fifth and last is fostering reconciliation and resolving the many long-standing local conflicts in the country. The universal elections to be held in 2020 will be a defining litmus test of the progress that has been made towards building a properly functioning State.

In the past two months, the Federal Government and federal member state leaders have taken important first steps that have reinforced the prevailing hope that these key peace- and State-building priorities can be accomplished during the new Government's current term. They have demonstrated the will to secure the political agreements that are essential to such progress. The leaders recognize that the current credibility gap dividing Government institutions from the general population needs to be addressed. They have also shown the necessary commitment to working with the private sector and engaging constructively with Somalia's international partners.

On 16 April, just two months into President Farmajo's term of office, the leaders concluded a political agreement on the long-awaited national security architecture. It defines the size, structure, composition, command and control, and financing arrangements for Somalia's security forces, based on a federal model. Its significance is enormous. It provides a framework for the accelerated development of acceptable, accountable, affordable and able security forces. It will also have a catalytic effect on efforts to reinforce governance and increase revenue generation. In addition, it provides a model for other essential political agreements on such key issues as the management of natural resources, revenue sharing and the broader definition of the respective powers and responsibilities of the Federal Government and the federal member states. The agreement makes it possible for international partners to support Somalia's security sector in a more coherent manner. The national security architecture agreement and the new policing model, adopted last year, should now be complemented by a political agreement defining a federal model for the justice and corrections sectors.

As we welcome the advent of a new chapter in Somalia and the unique opportunities it has unlocked, we are not oblivious to the scale and complexity of the hurdles facing the Somali Government during the long four-year journey that lies ahead. Continued insecurity, owing primarily but not exclusively to Al-Shabaab attacks, remains the biggest challenge. We applaud AMISOM for providing the backbone for security in Somalia over the past 10 years. Its joint efforts with the Somali security forces, with support from international partners, have made possible the progress the country has achieved so far.

However, Al-Shabaab still has the capacity to disrupt and impede the peace- and State-building process. Fighting it requires a multi-pronged approach that combines staging AMISOM and Somali national army offensive operations; conducting special counter-terrorism operations by those of Somalia's partners in a position to do so; fostering the extension of State authority; addressing governance deficits; and resolving local conflicts, while at the same time providing incentives to elements wishing to take advantage of President Farmajo's offer of amnesty.

Support enabling AMISOM to carry out effective operations must accompany and complement the implementation of the national security architecture agreement. There is no question of choosing one over the other. In the short term, therefore, AMISOM needs predictable funding, ideally through assessed contributions. Offensive operations by AMISOM and the Somali forces will yield sustainable outcomes only if they are planned in a coordinated manner and conducted in compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law. The current humanitarian crisis should be taken into account, vulnerable populations properly protected and arrangements put in place for holding and building recovered areas, including local administrations acceptable to the local communities.

The vigorous implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy is important as we continue to enable AMISOM operations and help to accelerate the building of Somali security forces. Al-Shabaab feeds on shortfalls in governance, particularly in the areas of human rights, justice and the rule of law, and the delivery of basic services. An inclusive approach to governance and access to basic services is therefore critical to preventing and countering violent extremism. We welcome the Federal Government's efforts to mediate between Galmudug state and Ahl Al-Sunna Wal-Jama'a. The dialogue must continue. Reconciliation with Ahl Al-Sunna is critical to the viability and security of Galmudug state,

including its efforts to address the threat from piracy. While it is premature to talk of a return to the peak era of piracy off the coast of Somalia, the recent hijackings of ships remind us that the progress achieved so far could be reversed. Robust counter-piracy efforts, including increased patrolling of Somali waters, should continue, accompanied by greater support to building the capacity of Somalia's maritime law-enforcement services.

The Somali institutions responsible for implementing the Government's agenda over the next four years are suffering from severe capacity shortfalls. The target dates set out in the political agreement on the national security architecture and other plans will not be met without substantial and coherent support from international partners. The work related to the national security architecture must be harmonized with arrangements for the conditions-based transition of primary responsibility for the country's security from AMISOM to Somalia's security forces, which is expected to start in 2018. That will require a high degree of coordination that exceeds the current capacity of the country's institutions. Similarly, timely progress in reviewing the Constitution, synchronized with both the painstaking process of securing political agreements on key issues and the preparations for the 2020 elections in a challenging political and security context, requires complex coordination between the Somali institutions concerned and reinforcement of their capacity.

Such cohesion is imperative not just among the relevant Somali institutions but also among the many international partners that deliver support to Somalia's security sector and its key political processes. We must acknowledge that the absence of an agreed-on national security architecture and the disorganized delivery by international partners of security-sector support over the past eight years have contributed equally to the lack of progress in building capable and legitimate security forces in Somalia.

That is why the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia, which took place six days ago, and the joint African Union (AU) and United Nations review of AMISOM and Somali security forces, which is currently under way, are so important. The London Conference provided a unique opportunity for Somalia to present its agenda to international partners and reach agreement on the framework for cooperation to realize key priorities, anchored in the principle of mutual accountability. That is reflected in two key agreements that came out of the Conference.

One is the security pact between Somalia and 42 international partners. The pact endorses the national security architecture agreement, sets out milestones for the rapid development of Somalia's security forces and recognizes that AMISOM remains critical to securing Somalia, while also expressing support for a conditions-based transition from AMISOM to Somali security forces, with clear target dates linked to the agreed milestones. It also outlines a coordination and implementation mechanism to ensure the coherent delivery of support by international partners.

The second document defines a new partnership for Somalia. It sets out a mutual accountability framework, as well as specific partnership principles and enabling actions, based on which Somalia and its international partners will work together to meet the priority political, security and economic recovery goals identified in Somalia's national development plan. Somalia and its partners agreed to meet again in October, to follow up on the commitments made in London. At that meeting, they will consider a financing strategy for the national security architecture, in line with the comprehensive approach to security. The London Conference has therefore added momentum to the efforts to advance Somalia's key priorities.

The joint AU-United Nations review focuses on six key tasks: first, establishing a baseline assessment of AMISOM and the Somali security forces; secondly, identifying the necessary tasks for AMISOM, taking into account the national security architecture and the comprehensive approach to security; thirdly, identifying the range of security actors that play a role in Somalia and making recommendations on the preferred relationships and division of responsibilities among them; fourthly, making recommendations on AMISOM's future configuration to facilitate a smooth conditions-based transition to Somali security forces; fifthly, developing recommendations on what a conditions-based transition should look like and, finally, identifying the required support to AMISOM and the Somali security forces, tied to the transition plan. The findings and recommendations of the review will be presented to the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council for their consideration.

The joint review builds on the strategic assessment of the United Nations presence in Somalia, which was conducted from 5-15 March, at the Council's request. In his letter of 5 May, addressed to you, Sir, the Secretary-

General transmitted the results of the assessment. I wish to emphasize the Secretary-General's observation in the letter that, as the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia is adjusted according to new priorities, some elements of the United Nations support to Somalia over the next four years will create demands for increased resources. We therefore trust that the Security Council and other relevant legislative bodies will support the recommendations of the strategic assessment and continue to provide the necessary resources required to enable the United Nations system to support Somalia's ambitious undertakings.

I wish to thank all members of the Council for their strong and unified position on supporting Somalia's peacebuilding and State-building agenda and for supporting the United Nations team in Somalia.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Zenenga for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Madeira.

Mr. Madeira: Let me start by thanking you, Sir, for inviting me to address the Security Council and brief it on Somalia. I bring greetings to the Council from the African Union Chairperson, His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

We are encouraged by the response that the international community has given to the appeal to support the drought-stricken population of Somalia. However, as much as there have been clear shows of generosity, the chasm is deep and wide and requires further contributions. We look forward to those contributions in the very near future.

We are meeting in the aftermath of the London Conference, which took place last week, barely three months since President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed emerged victorious from a violence-free and acceptably fair election, during which power was transferred to him in an exemplary and peaceful manner. That is a major feat of unique significance, if we take into account that Somalia is still a country plagued by insurgency, violent extremism and terrorism. The fact that the London Conference was able to come up with decisions whose implementation will be a game-changer in Somalia, with a decisive and lasting impact on the overall outlook of the country in the near future, was due to the immense preparatory work and strategic decisions taken by the leadership of Somalia, in particular President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and his Government in all important areas of endeavour in the country.

Indeed, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, in coordination with other line ministries under the Federal Parliament, have embarked on a consultative programme in preparation for an aggressive push forward in the country's political and constitutional reforms ahead of the 2020 or 2021 one-person-one-vote universal suffrage.

During the period under review, the Federal Government of Somalia hosted Galmudug authorities and Ahl al-Sunna wal-Jama'a political dialogue and negotiations in Mogadishu. That is an important step forward and a clear indication that sustained efforts towards reconciliation are and should continue to be a permanent feature on the road towards building a peaceful and stable Somalia.

On 16 April, the Federal Government of Somalia held the first national consultative forum, which was chaired by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia himself. It was attended by the Speaker of the national Parliament, the Prime Minister and the regional leaders of Puntland, Jubaland, South West, HirShabelle and Galmudug states. In that encounter, these Somali leaders reached a historic political agreement to integrate regional and federal forces into a coherent national security architecture capable of gradually taking on full responsibility for the security of the country. The leaders agreed upon the national security policy and the guidelines to follow. Its implementation was spearheaded by the national security council, which is chaired by the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. They further agreed on establishing regional security councils, which would be chaired by the regional State leaders.

This approved national security architecture is an unheard of milestone in the Somalia of the past 26 years. Much as the road ahead is still bumpy and tricky, these encouraging developments put Somalia at another level, and the country is clearly on the verge of opening a new page in its history. We are galvanized by the new leadership of Somalia, propelled to power through a huge popular mandate and committed to better governance, inclusive politics, the strengthening of State institutions, the delivery of services to the people, promoting transparency and respect for human rights, fighting corruption, creating jobs and

building a strong partnership to degrade and contain Al-Shabaab terrorists.

The April agreement on the Somalia national security extension for the building of affordable, inclusive, effective and professional Somali security forces, based on a collective vision and political agreements between the Federal Government of Somalia and Somalia's regional federal member states, combined with other security policy instruments adopted by the previous Administration, are solid building blocks in the construction of a strong barrier against insecurity and instability. However, military actions, law enforcement and intelligence operations, though important and necessary, cannot succeed alone. There is a need to continue to build a strong partnership for peace between the Government of Somalia and the Somali people through their community leaders, religious denominations, business communities and academia, youth organizations and civil society in general in the pursuit of a shared national agenda in which everyone wins something and no one loses everything.

We applaud President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo's decision to extend amnesty and encourage those Somalis who have fallen into the hands of Al-Shabaab to renounce violence and join their brothers and sisters in the rebuilding of the country and in the creation of a better future for themselves and for their families. These and other reconciliation approaches adopted by the Government are as important as the military operations undertaken by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and by the Somali national security forces in reducing the number of recruits to Al-Shabaab. We can only support President Abdullahi in this, as we, like him, believe that it is the continued and coherent pursuit of this multipronged comprehensive approach to security that will eventually deliver lasting peace and stability to Somalia and to the East African region in general. We therefore call on all national and international partners to help build the infrastructure that President Abdullahi will need to accommodate those Somalis who heed his appeal and are ready to renounce violence, reintegrate into society and be constructive citizens of their country again.

Securing the main supply routes and transforming them into violence-free enclaves — where a concomitant delivery of safety, security, governance, jobs, trades and economic and social amenities and other services to the populations living along these arteries can take place — is an important way to extend the State presence throughout the country and bring the Government closer to the people and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to Al-Shabaab's violent extremist ideological narrative.

The Somalia national security architecture is a medium- to long-term project. There is a need to provide for an approach that also takes charge and addresses Somalia's current and short-term security concerns. To this effect, Somalia needs to have well-trained, well-equipped and readily available forces to perform these duties and operate alongside AMISOM to continue to hold liberated towns and cities, secure the main supply routes and undertake joint or coordinated offensive operations to continue to disrupt, degrade and contain Al-Shabaab militants. The Guulwade plan with regard to Somali national army troops, in which the United Nations has invested and is currently supporting to the tune of 10,900 troops should be factored in and be made part of the force that should, as of now, continue to take on and confront Al-Shabaab and degrade it while the implementation of the national security architecture is taking place.

The towns of Jamaame, Jilib, Saacow and Bu'ale, along the Juba corridor, and that Harardhere in the north-eastern coastline are today Al-Shabaab's holding grounds, bomb and manufacturing bases, planning centres, military equipment and reception and holding sites, transit points and training areas. To enhance security in Mogadishu and properly protect the major population of Mogadishu's centres throughout the country, Juba Corridor II Operation and a north-eastern coastline offensive must take place. They should be allowed to take place. We should concur for them to take place. Partners must come clear on where they stand on the liberation of these cities.

The conclusion that the risk of grave violations being committed during the Juba Corridor II Operation is generally high needs to be revised and be based on objectively proven and observable assumptions. As the troops to be committed in this offensive will have passed through pre-certification on human rights due diligence policy before the offensive begins, there is no intention of carrying out this operation with individuals with proven, recorded criminal records. We intend to bring decent people to this operation. Therefore, we need to be clear when we say that the probability of human rights violations is high. We need to know how

we came to that conclusion, since we have not seen people in those regions and we have not counted the people who are going to take this offensive and nobody knows them yet.

Yesterday, on 16 May, the African Union (AU) and United Nations joint review process commenced. This exercise aims at providing details on what needs to be in place and done between now and the date AMISOM is scheduled to commence the drawdown to allow the Somali national security forces to progressively assume the security responsibilities of the country. We are happy that we have come to an agreement that this should no longer be an exercise between the African Union and the United Nations alone as it used to be in the past.

The full participation of, and interaction with, the Somali authorities and stakeholders in the spelling-out of tasks, functions, resources, role players, coordination and other requisite activities during the review is of critical importance. The Somali Government must be fully involved in the AU, United Nations, AMISOM review exercise, and they should take the lead. They should tell us what they want to see happen: how many resources; what type of resources they would want to see in place; how much training they want the military to have, so that we can effectively implement what they want and not what we want them to want.

Until the drawdown commences and the exit process is completed, it is important that AMISOM be provided with regular, predictable and dependable funding and the requisite logistical support, force enablers and force multipliers that would allow it to successfully accomplish its mandate side by side with the Somali national security forces.

Years of uncoordinated individual partner involvement in support of the Somali national security forces and AMISOM have yielded very limited results. It is important that the Security Council explore the possibility of enhancing the output facilitated by this bilateral assistance by bringing some order, coherence, coordination and direction in the way partner support is provided and delivered to both AMISOM and, in particular, to the Somali national security sector. That would ensure that its content and quality is adequate, fit for purpose and complementary to the efforts to achieve common, specific Federal Government of Somalia and AMISOM stabilization objectives.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Madeira for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their briefings and for all of the progress that they and their teams are making.

This is a well-timed meeting, coming as it does so soon after the successful London Somalia Conference last week on 11 May. We met at what is both a time of struggle but also a time of hope for the people of Somalia. The severe drought continues to cause daily suffering. The risk of famine remains high. Yes, the international community is making progress with significant humanitarian pledges; but we cannot afford to be complacent. There is still much more that needs to be done if we are to avoid a famine.

In London last week the Secretary-General presented a revised humanitarian response plan seeking $1.5 billion dollars for 2017 in order to scale up the United Nations response. We must work collectively to help increase Somalia's long-term resilience at the same time as tackling the immediate humanitarian needs.

Whereas the drought provides significant reasons for concern, we also recognize that this is a period of hope and optimism for Somalia. There has been good progress on both political and security issues.

I was proud to attend the London Conference last week, and I witnessed first-hand the renewed energy and resolve of the Federal Government of Somalia and of the federal member states to seize the opportunities of this new Administration. I was also glad to see the very strong commitment of Somalia's international partners to supporting that progress in Somalia on political and security issues, in a new partnership.

A crucial milestone was the conclusion of the electoral process and the peaceful, swift transfer of power, culminating in the appointment of a new Government. That truly was a historic moment in Somalia's emergence from conflict.

The new Government has set out its priorities, and it is a daunting list ahead: responding to the drought; tackling corruption; building Somalia's security capacity to tackle Al-Shabaab; reforming the

Constitution; implementing the federalism project; and rejuvenating the economy. Those are enormous challenges ahead. However, last week I witnessed the necessary political will to address them, as well as a sense of momentum and energy that now needs to translate into tangible progress.

The coming period will be about building a stable federal settlement, most urgently in the area of security. But we also need to ensure that commitments to address fundamental constitutional issues on power and resource-sharing are implemented and get the high-level political attention that they need. Finding a model to make one-person one-vote elections a reality and agreeing an electoral law by 2018 will not be straightforward; but getting those things right will be essential for Somalia's long-term stability. International-community support, coordinated by AMISOM, will be needed to support Somali decision-making.

We thank the Secretary-General for the strategic review of the United Nations presence in Somalia to ensure that the United Nations is best configured to support this next chapter for Somalia. We agree with its recommendations, in particular the emphasis on supporting the federal member states to achieve more inclusive, stable politics across the country.

Effective security will be essential to underpin the political and economic progress and to prevent recurring humanitarian crises. The security pact agreed in London sets out the agreed version of Somali-led security institutions and forces. They need to be affordable, acceptable and accountable. They need to have the ability to provide the security and protection that the people of Somalia deserve and need, as part of a comprehensive approach to security. Implementing all of this will be a key priority over the coming months.

On the international side, we need to coordinate better, provide more coherent support and work together to implement that Somali vision of security. In the months ahead we will need strong political will from Somalia to implement reforms together with the continued support from the international community. This is a moment of opportunity, and we look forward to working alongside the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and all of Somalia's partners and supporters to convert strong commitments into action.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Perhaps you would agree with me, Mr. President, that the election of President Farmajo, with broad popular support, the establishment of the new Somali Government, as well as the concrete steps taken to realize the hopes and aspirations of the Somali people through the establishment of State institutions, the fight against terrorism and the realization of economic and social development, signal a new beginning that points to the establishment of a strong and stable Somalia. That requires an intensification of the international support provided to Somalia that is commensurate with the priorities of the Somali Government, as well as improved coordination with the Somali partners with a view to avoiding duplicity.

It is also important to expedite the implementation of the agreements reached a few days ago in London with regard to the security pact and a new partnership for Somalia. On the other hand, terrorism continues to pose a real danger to the gains realized in Somalia in the recent past. That danger is not confined to Somalia; it extends to other countries both within and outside the region, which requires the promotion of international and regional efforts to put an end to Al-Shabaab and other terrorist organizations. In that regard, I commend the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for all the sacrifices it has made while working with the Somali armed forces.

We look forward to the expeditious implementation of the agreements between the Somali parties signed on 16 April 2017. The agreements provide a concrete strategy for establishing a strong, united and professional Somali security force that can shoulder the responsibility of providing protection and security in Somalia. However, it is important that the need to take gradual steps in reducing the size of AMISOM as it moves towards the winding down of the Mission in 2020 be taken into account.

We believe that it is also extremely important to support the national security, military and law-enforcement institutions that fight terrorism, as well as those institutions that provide basic services in order to maintain peace and security. Support is also required for the establishment of strong State institutions that uphold the rule of law and for a review of the country's Constitution. Accordingly, international efforts by all members of the international community, in particular the United Nations, must be intensified, in accordance with the priorities set by the Somalis themselves.

Furthermore, redoubled international and regional efforts are needed to assist Somalia in dealing with the humanitarian crisis resulting from the drought. The effects of drought extend beyond the humanitarian sphere to the economic, security and political situation in the country. It is therefore crucial to support and enhance the capacities of Somalia in terms of prevention and early warning and in dealing with the recurring crises in the country.

In conclusion, we stress our determination to continue to support Somalia with a view to establishing a strong and stable State for the benefit, welfare and progress of the Somali people.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Uruguay for convening today's meeting. China has listened carefully to the statements by Mr. Raisedon Zenenga, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, and by Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia.

At present, Somalia is entering an important period of national reconstruction. Since the end of last year, Somalia has successfully held federal parliamentary and presidential elections, and a new Government was established early this year. By doing so, it has achieved a peaceful transfer of power, which is an important step in national reconstruction. China welcomes all of this.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) have made positive contributions to these developments, for which China wishes to express appreciation. On the other hand, we must note that Somalia still faces severe challenges in the political, security, economic and humanitarian areas. At present, there are 6.2 million people in Somalia lacking food, approximately 3 million of whom await urgent food assistance.

There is still a long way to go for Somalia to achieve long-lasting peace and stability and economic development. The international community should pay more attention and provide stronger support to Somalia.

First, it is important to adhere to Somali-led and Somali-owned principles, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, supporting its capacity-building in the areas of security and governance, and making sure that they are able to shoulder their responsibility for national security and consolidate the positive momentum in the peace process. At the same time, Somalia's economic reconstruction and humanitarian situation is an area where the international community should continue to provide assistance and support. The relevant parties should provide precise planning for assistance and cooperation for Somalia in order to take the process of national reconstruction forward in a steady manner.

Secondly, the international community should strengthen cooperation on Somalia among the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and regional countries in an ongoing manner. The international community should support addressing African problems in African ways. It should also support the AU and regional and subregional organizations in playing important roles in resolving Africa's flashpoint issues. The international community must support AMISOM and UNSOM as they continue to implement their mandates. At the same time, the Security Council should send more positive messages and, based on developments in the situation, continue to review the relevant provisions of resolutions and make necessary adjustments in a timely fashion.

The international Conference on Somalia was held recently in London. The meeting discussed the establishment of security architecture, political process, economic recovery and humanitarian issues. The Chinese Government's Special Representative for African Affairs took part in the meeting and stated positions of the Chinese Government. As to outcome documents, the meeting adopted a security agreement and a new partnership agreement, which is something that China welcomes. China hopes that the relevant agreements will be faithfully implemented.

China has always supported the efforts in Somalia aimed at achieving peace and development and has taken active part in the peace process in the country. China has played a positive role in Somalia, with a view to finding political solutions for country's issues. China has provided a convoy fleet for deployment in the maritime areas around Somalia and the Gulf of Aden in order to help the country in its fight against pirates.

To help the Government of Somalia to deal with the current famine, China has provided food assistance to Somalia through the World Food Programme and has also provide emergency humanitarian material assistance in order to help improve the living conditions

of the internally displaced persons there. China is willing to play a constructive role in achieving peace, stability and development in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank Deputy Special Representative Zenenga and Special Representative Madeira for their briefings.

Secretary-General Guterres used a phrase at the London Conference last week that we do not hear enough when we talk about Somalia: "good news". There is much work to be done and significant threats still loom, but there are hopeful signs in Somalia that a new foundation for the State is being laid.

Our charge today and in the coming months will be to continue the momentum of State-building. Our goal is to support an ambitious agenda of Somali-led reforms towards a democratic, stable and prosperous country. Ten years have passed since the Security Council first authorized the African Union Mission in Somalia. We salute those forces that have sacrificed so much to bring stability and security to the country. In addition, Somalia has a new leader in President Farmajo. Last week in London, United States Defense Secretary Mattis said that President Farmajo is someone who is

> "willing to put personal comfort aside and carry the responsibilities and danger of leadership".

We congratulate President Farmajo on the security pact that was endorsed at the London Conference. That agreement is very much in the spirit of our goal to help Somalia create for itself a stable Government that can provide security for its people.

The Federal Government of Somalia took the first significant step towards that goal with the creation of the new national security architecture. A vital part of building a new, independent Somalia is the creation of a professional military and police force. This architecture provides a starting point for a stronger, more cohesive security force in a more united country. The London agreement will now support this security architecture with more coordinated international involvement.

Too often, the efforts of Somalia's international partners have been disjointed and even at cross purposes. In an environment where financial resources are shrinking, cooperation and transparency among donors are extremely important. The London agreement not only encourages international partners to stay committed; it urges them to work together and more cooperatively.

The United States is fully committed to supporting the implementation of the national security architecture and the London communiqué. Our support comes with certain expectations, however. We welcome the new Somali Administration's commitment to tackling corruption in the security sector. We will be looking to see that the statements made promising these reforms are matched with swift and decisive actions to ensure transparency and accountability. We also need to see stronger institutional capacity within the Somali national army before we can consider lifting the arms embargo.

We are willing to help Somalia build that capacity. In the meantime, the Government of Somalia is able to obtain the military equipment it needs by following the existing exemption. Additionally, as we go through the African Union-United Nations joint review of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), we encourage the review team to take a hard look at how the international community can best support the next stage of State-building in Somalia. Our goal now is to begin the transition of Somali security forces by providing training and resources to Somali troops. AMISOM's comparative advantage is its ability to undertake offensive operations and perform counter-terrorism activities. Given the ongoing threats in Somalia from Al-Shabaab and other armed groups, we do not believe that it is appropriate at this time to consider a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia, nor do we support the use of United Nations assessed funding for AMISOM troop stipends.

Finally, as we focus on strengthening Somalia's political and security institutions, we canot lose sight of the immense challenges posed by the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Over 6.5 million people are in need of food assistance in Somalia — more than half the population. We applaud the Government's efforts to address the drought conditions and we appreciate the mobilization efforts of the humanitarian community to provide water, food and medical care. While we are heartened by the commitment of over $600 million from the international community this year, we recognize that we are not out of the woods yet, as our briefers have reminded us today.

Somalia and the United Nations have just requested nearly $900 million to provide assistance through

the end of this year. The United States has provided $178 million since October to the humanitarian response. We encourage other donors to offer their support as well. In the longer term, it will be Somalia's emergence as a stable, secure nation that will help it to prevent future humanitarian crises. This is a moment of great potential for that nation. The United States looks forward to remaining a partner to Somalia as Somalia makes its journey to security and Independence.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): First, I thank Mr. Zenenga and Ambassador Madeira for their informative updates on the situation in Somalia.

Japan highly commends the Governments of the United Kingdom and Somalia, as well as the United Nations, for hosting the London Conference on 11 May to chart a new course for peace and stability in Somalia. Japan was represented there by Mr. Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

As articulated at the Conference, while Somalia has made steady progress towards peace and prosperity, many challenges lie ahead. With the sustained assistance of the international community, the Government must urgently address famine and food insecurity, develop a representative Somali national army and police force, review the Constitution and facilitate universal suffrage in 2020. In this regard, we are particularly encouraged by President Farmajo's robust commitment at the London Conference on Somalia to leading the Government in addressing these challenges.

While the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) remains critical to the security of Somalia, in the longer term Somali institutions must be capable of providing security in all corners of the country. Japan therefore looks forward to the steady implementation of the national security architecture by the Federal Government and federal member states. The newly created national security council will have an important role to play in an integrated approach to security. Additionally, international partners must depart from individualistic approaches and closely coordinate efforts to assist Somalia in developing a representative national army and police force.

Successful and lasting State-building for Somalia will also hinge on its economic development and the well-being of its citizens. To that end, Japan has contributed $442 million to provide basic social services, strengthen the capacity of the Somali police forces and invigorate the national economy, including the empowerment of young people, who play a role in the national development plan. Our assistance includes the recent disbursement of $8.5 million to urgently address the famine crisis. We believe that the concerted action of the international community to prevent famine is crucial at this critical juncture. We have also supported the Somali people in capacity-building by providing training to more than 150 people in the areas of health, infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries and counter-terrorism.

Japan also looks forward to an inclusive and thorough constitutional review to build a federal State, including on resource and revenue-sharing mechanisms between the Federal Government and the states.

Lastly, the recent increase in hijacking of commercial vessels off the coast of Somalia is a matter of serious concern and highlights the need for sustained international counter-piracy efforts in the region. Japan will continue its warning and surveillance activities and escort operations, while also supporting social services and economic development in the coastal areas. Through these activities, Japan will continue to cooperate with the international community to achieve a free and open Indo-Pacific Ocean.

Mrs. Gueguen (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Mr. Zenenga and Mr. Madeira for their briefings. I shall not rehash their diagnosis and assessment of the current situation, which, as the Secretary-General said following his recent visit to Somalia, is a source of dual and contrasting feelings of sadness and hope.

Progress has been made in Somalia since 2007. The recent electoral process, despite its shortcomings, maintains and extends that momentum. With respect to the international security effort in Somalia, France, of course, pays tribute to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), its fallen soldiers and the support of the United Nations. France also recalls that the European Union has contributed nearly $2 billion to this effort.

But we also know that this significant progress is partial and reversible. In that context, I would like to emphasize the following elements, which, in our view, constitute the priorities of the coming phase in Somalia.

First, on the political and humanitarian situation, France endorses the recommendations of the strategic review of the United Nations presence in Somalia, which, beyond the guidelines for the United Nations

Assistance Mission in Somalia, identifies priority areas for action, numbering four per month. This includes, first, the conclusion of an agreement on federalism defining the respective competences of the federal authorities and the federated entities in both civil and military fields. Secondly, basic public services must be established throughout the territory capable of providing the population with the services and protections it needs.

In this regard, the drought currently affecting the region requires urgent action and reminds us of the importance of putting in place the measures necessary to respond to the humanitarian consequences of crises, whatever they may be.

Thirdly, a greater effort is required in the establishment of the rule of law in Somalia and in the area of respect for human rights. These principles must be applied to all actors, be they national or international, in particular in the area of security. The United Nations policy on human rights must be our common framework in this respect.

Fourthly, we need greater transparency in public finances and in the management of international assistance.

The second priority in the upcoming period is AMISOM. In the context of our prioritization of United Nations action, following this year's elections our major priority is security. In this respect, France would like to make three points.

First, concerning the financing of AMISOM, France had hoped that other contributors would join in the financial efforts undertaken by the United Nations, the European Union and bilateral contributors. But the geographical diversification of AMISOM funding did not, unfortunately, take place; we cannot and should not stop here.

Secondly, on the issue of the withdrawal of AMISOM, we understand the desire of certain troop-contributing countries to withdraw and once again we pay tribute to them. However, such a withdrawal should not simply follow a national timetable but also must linked to a Somali security solution.

Thirdly, before the withdrawal, AMISOM, which is going to continue its operations in Somalia, must increase its operational effectiveness. This requires the establishment of mission support units, improving intelligence-gathering capacities, strengthening the chain of command, and coordination among the various contingents.

France expects that the joint review of AMISOM, as requested in resolution 2297 (2016) will take account of these challenges.

But the crucial point when it comes to security, as was underscored by the briefers and the speakers who took the floor before me, is a greater involvement of the Somalis themselves. This, we believe, is the key issue for the upcoming period. About 1,900 Somali army personnel are eligible for logistical support, to be provided by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, in the framework of joint operations with UNSOM. Also, local forces — also known as Darwish forces — are carrying out security functions. These forces must be involved to a greater extent and as quickly as possible in exercising control over the liberated territories.

The review requested in resolution 2297 (2016) places the development of a Somali solution at the heart of its objectives. A general, in-depth review of the staffing of the Somali armed forces must be carried out as soon as possible, and followed up by the establishment of a transparent system of salary payments. The European Union must also continue carrying out the training of its forces through the European Union Training Mission for Somalia, including in the regions, and we welcome the fact that the European Union was invited to participate in the joint mission.

In order for these goals to be attained, these goals must be shared by the Somali authorities, which must commit to working towards them. The concept of mutual accountability must be fleshed out operationally, and France welcomes the recent encouraging developments in this area.

Lastly, we welcome the London Conference, held last week, at which these undertakings were endorsed and international partners joined together on a coordinated approach that must be implemented as soon as possible.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): At the outset, let me thank Deputy State Representative Zenenga and Special Representative Madeira for their briefings.

We share the view expressed by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2017/408) that in the past month we have witnessed remarkable events that have restored significant hope for the future of Somalia. It is crucial

for us to build on these results and move towards a different and more positive narrative of the situation in the country. We take today's opportunity to support President Farmajo and the Somali authorities' efforts in the institution-building process.

Italy is actively committed, together with Somalia itself, the United Nations, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other relevant partners to the full empowerment of Somali institutions. We firmly believe that Somali ownership is key to this process. We have always adhered to this principle and will continue to do so.

Turning to security, we welcome the results of the London Conference of 11 May and the launch of the new partnership for Somalia, which will be vital to the implementation of the national development plan.

The threat posed by Al-Shabaab remains very serious, especially in terms of its impact on the population. This is where the work of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is still crucial to the success of the Somali security forces entry strategy.

Italy supports the efforts made by the United Nations and the African Union to lay out the framework for AMISOM operations and looks with confidence to the outcome of the joint review of the United Nations-African Union cooperation on AMISOM currently under way. We share the view expressed by Special Representative Madeira that this review must be conducted in very close consultation with the Somali authorities.

Italy will continue to support Somali ownership in the security sector via bilateral training for the Somali police and also by leading the European Union training mission in Somalia, to which we provide half of the force and the Force Commander.

Bearing in mind the central challenge posed by terrorism, it is also clear that the security dimension is not the only issue we must tackle. Somalia, together with its partners, can do more to tackle what are also the root causes of radicalization, such as poverty, lack of education, lack of job opportunities and the prevention of violent extremism.

As for the United Nations, in the coming months UNSOM should work to advance major efforts in consolidating the rule of law, financial accountability and administrative capacities, at both the national and federal levels, starting with basic social services. As recalled in the Secretary-General's recent review of operations, the core mission of UNSOM remains strategic advice on peacebuilding and State-building, the coordination of international support and capacity-building of Somali federal and State institutions.

The humanitarian situation is very, very worrisome. Italy has so far committed $4.5 million to the drought emergency, and will continue to do its part to alleviate suffering and strengthen resilience for the most vulnerable categories of the civilian population.

Lastly, we commend the Federal Government of Somalia for the priority given to rebuilding the economy and restoring key financial institutions. We warmly welcome the road map agreed between the Federal Government and international financial institutions, and we strongly encourage Somalia's aspirations towards debt relief, which will be the final goal of the implementation of both the road map and the conditions required by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative. Italy reiterates its commitment to fulfilling this aspiration as soon as the relevant requirements are met.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to the briefers for their comprehensive presentations.

The successful conclusion of an electoral cycle in Somalia, including the election of a new bicameral Parliament and a President, are an important milestone in the history of the country. We expect that the new authorities will very quickly focus their attention on ensuring that Somalia continues to move towards national reconciliation, restoring statehood, strengthening the security sector and socioeconomic development.

The first steps undertaken by the new President, namely, declaring a state of emergency and a 60-day amnesty for fighters who have laid down their weapons, make clear the dedication and commitment of the head of State.

We also welcome the signing, on April 17, as an outcome of negotiations among representatives of the states, of the agreement on the national security architecture. In line with the latter, the National Security Council was established, which has the potential of becoming a promising forum for developing collective decisions by the Somali authorities. We believe that that represents a movement in the right direction and

a significant contribution to strengthening national capacities in the area of security.

Against that background, we are still seriously concerned about the security situation in Somalia, as it remains far from stable. The main reason for that involves the relentless attacks by Al-Shabaab. We also note the increasing activity of that group outside the country. In particular, we note that members of Al-Shabaab coordinate their activities with other terrorist groups in the subregion, thereby undermining security in the Horn of Africa.

Another concern is the worsening return of the issue of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the north-west area of the Indian Ocean. According to the most recent report (S/2017/408) of the Secretary-General, in March and April alone, pirates carried out five successful attacks. Such incidents had previously not been recorded since 2012.

It is obvious that the causes leading to the phenomenon of piracy in the region have not yet been eliminated. There is an obvious connection between it and the drastic deterioration of the socioeconomic situation in the country because of the effects of the drought, while the Somali factions concerned have maintained considerable potential. We therefore note that we need to continue coordinating international anti-piracy efforts, including through the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. We are in favour of maintaining that entity, which has shown its effectiveness. We intend to actively participate in the twentieth plenary session of the Contact Group, to be held in Mauritius in June.

In that context, we believe that it is very important to ensure that the steps undertaken by the international community aimed at improving the capacity of the Somali army and those of the peacekeeping forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) be coordinated. We believe that the review of AMISOM's mandate, which is currently being carried out jointly by the United Nations and the African Union, should lead to the further enhancement of the effectiveness of the work carried out by the African peacekeepers. We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that the premature withdrawal of the Mission from the Somalia could lead to the collapse of the security situation in the country.

Our close attention needs to be focused on the dire humanitarian situation in Somalia that has been caused by a combination of the catastrophic consequences of the drought and domestic instability. Millions of Somalis are on the brink of starvation. The forecasts for the near future are far from hopeful. The international community must provide humanitarian assistance to the country as soon as possible and provide its people with the basic necessities of water, food and medicine.

We attach great importance to the arms and coal embargo against Somalia. We note that those restrictions have proved to be a very effective tool for cutting off the channels fuelling extremist and terrorist forces. We call for further enhancing the effectiveness of restrictive measures. The practice of partially lifting arms embargoes on supplies to the Somali armed security forces has shown itself to be effective.

In the future, Russia intends to continue to take an active part in the development of concerted steps to resolve the crisis and provide assistance to Mogadishu. Our country regularly provides humanitarian assistance to the Federal Government, as well as to Somali refugees in neighbouring countries, through targeted contributions to the relevant funds within the United Nations system. We will also continue to provide free training to Somali civilian cadres.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I would like to begin by thanking this morning's briefers, including Matthew Rycroft for his update on the London Conference on Somalia. I think that what we gather from the briefings and the report (S/2017/408) of the Secretary-General is that significant political progress had been made in Somalia during the reporting period. As everyone said, the political and security advances during the past recent months must be consolidated and built upon.

It is clear that continued international support for the Government and the people of Somalia will be necessary as they seek to build on the promise of recent gains and confront the remaining challenges. In that regard, we would like to extend our thanks to the Government of the United Kingdom for hosting and arranging the very successful Conference in London. We strongly welcome the outcome, not least of which was the security pact and the new partnership agreement concerning Somalia, which will guide our continued cooperation and support for the country. The important agreement between state and federal leaders on the architecture and accountability of Somali security forces was instrumental in making the security pact possible.

Important peace- and State-building tasks remain. Those include a resumed review of the Constitution based on inclusive, transparent and broad-based consultations, and preparations for national elections in 2020 and 2021. Building trust and constructive relations within and between the federal member states and central Government will be key. Strengthening the capacity of local governance and institutions must be a top priority with the aim of building confidence in the legitimacy of State functions, including through the provision of basic social services. The agreements reached last week will be of fundamental importance for our continued and increased cooperation in support of those efforts.

The United Nations has walked the difficult road of the past with the Somali people. Going forward, it will be essential that we configure United Nations support for Somalia appropriately as the outcome of the London Conference is implemented. Therefore, we welcome the strategic review of the United Nations presence in Somalia and look forward to engaging constructively with Council members on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

The ongoing strategic review of the African the Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is equally important so as to ensure well-calibrated and well-coordinated support to Somalia. It is crucial that the projected drawdown of AMISOM be conditions-based and synchronized with a corresponding strengthening of Somali security forces. A failure to carefully manage that process could imperil the political and security gains already made. We should not forget that AMISOM has a critical role in counter-terrorism efforts in Somalia that have positive effects well beyond the borders of the country. Given its importance, we recognize that AMISOM deserves more predictable and sustainable financing to carry out its mission, and we look forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations on how to achieve that.

We are greatly concerned about the current drought conditions. As we heard this morning, the impact on the lives and livelihoods of Somalis is immense and devastating. While first and foremost a humanitarian issue, we must recognize that the drought could also have severe security and political implications. We commend the impressive efforts made thus far by the Government and the international community to respond, which have averted a more wide-spread famine. But it is essential that we sustain the effort to the end of the year at the earliest. However, urgent humanitarian assistance needs to be coupled with efforts to build long-term resilience to droughts and other crises.

As Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, I would like to highlight the recommendations concerning Somalia adopted last month. It is important that they now be implemented, particularly the recommendation regarding UNSOM's child protection mandate on the need to allocate sufficient child-protection capacity to the Mission We would also like to express particular concern with regard to the continued detention of children by federal and regional authorities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the detailed reporting on cross-cutting issues, including on women's empowerment and women and peace and security in the Secretary-General's report. We also commend UNSOM for having scaled up protection efforts in the light of increased incidents of sexual violence following the humanitarian emergency. We note that the Secretary-General's strategic review of UNSOM mentions that the women and peace and security agenda should be better integrated into UNSOM's mandate, thereby going beyond the protection of women and including their participation. The review's call for a strong emphasis on the good offices and conflict-resolution role of the Mission is also important. We look forward to discussing how that can be achieved in the updated mandate.

Despite the challenges still facing the Government and the people of Somalia, the significant progress made in the reporting period underlines the potential for Somalia to move forward towards peace and stability. The outcome of the London Conference shows that the international community remains committed, but we must all now redouble our efforts to implement the outcomes for the good of all Somalis.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We thank Mr. Zenenga, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, and Ambassador Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), for their briefings.

I would like to begin by bringing up two important issues. The first is essentially about the thanks we owe

Ambassador Madeira for what he said towards the end of his statement, when he stressed how critical it is to ensure a coordinated effort in the support provided to Somalia's security sector. He talked about the fact that the deficit in that support has been a major problem. We hope that, post-London and post-April, we have established a basis for overcoming that problem.

The second issue is really an appeal for ensuring that the support provided to Somalia's security forces and AMISOM is judged according to objective reality and the contribution that those forces are making to regional and international peace and security. Sweden's advice is pertinent here.

Today's meeting is taking place against a backdrop of the positive momentum generated over the past couple of months for Somalia's peace, security and development. The outcome of the London Conference hosted last week by the United Kingdom, for which it should be commended, reflected that positive momentum, and the new partnership for Somalia endorsed at the Conference is consistent with the country's need and expectations for renewed international support based on its ownership and priorities, as outlined by the Federal Government in its national development plan. What is equally important, of course, is the need to honour the pledges and commitments that have been made previously and to translate them into concrete support for the country's recovery and peacebuilding endeavours.

However, we are also mindful of the fact that we are meeting at a time when Somalia is facing a serious humanitarian crisis brought on by drought. Responding urgently and swiftly to the crisis is first and foremost a matter of saving lives, but it also has to do with preserving the gains that have been made in recent years through enormous effort and sacrifice. In that regard, we appreciate the Federal Government's initiatives and plans to address this national disaster, and we welcome the international support that has been mobilized to deliver much-needed assistance to those affected by the drought. Ensuring an effective and coordinated response under the leadership of the Federal Government is important if a humanitarian catastrophe is to be averted, in the short term, and the root causes of the country's vulnerability to disasters addressed, with a view to building its resilience, over the long term.

Further complicating the humanitarian crisis is the situation of Somalian refugees and displaced persons. The problem of finding a lasting solution to that issue was discussed at the Special Summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development held in Nairobi two months ago. The Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, adopted at the Summit, represents an important framework for comprehensively addressing the refugee issue, but its implementation requires enhanced bilateral, regional and international support.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of AMISOM, which has contributed immensely to peace, security, reconciliation and peacebuilding in Somalia over the past decade. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the Mission's experience that are highly relevant and significant to current and future peace operations. AMISOM is clearly not meant to stay in Somalia forever, and it is only right that discussions of its future have already begun. That future should be based on a clear exit strategy and road map that can eventually give Somalia's security forces greater responsibility. In that regard, we welcome the political agreement reached on 16 April on integrating the regional and federal forces into a coherent national security architecture and on the establishment of a national security council and office, which will enable Somalia to gradually assume greater responsibility for its security.

However, there is certainly a need to ensure enhanced coordination and coherence in the international support to the country on the basis of its national security architecture. That has not been the case so far, which is why the progress made in building Somalia's security forces has been far from adequate. But that is changing, and the agreement on the national security architecture is a major breakthrough.

Although AMISOM will begin a gradual drawdown in late 2018, its role will still be significant, and the provision of logistical support to the building of Somalia's security forces and to AMISOM therefore continues to be very critical, and even more so in the light of the impending offensive operations in the Juba valley corridor designed to dislodge Al-Shabaab from the areas that it still controls. Parenthetically, in connection with the fact that Al-Shabaab continues to be a menace, I should mention that while the London Conference was under way, there was a major battle against Al-Shabaab in the Hiran region. We hope that the upcoming joint African Union-United Nations review will consider these issues and come up with

concrete recommendations, including on the issue of providing AMISOM with complementary, predictable and sustainable funding through United Nations-assessed contributions, within the framework of the enhanced partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Lastly, Somalia has indeed come a long way and, more than ever before, there are better prospects for peace, security and stability in the country, provided that the positive momentum generated in recent years can be maintained and sustained. The challenges that Somalia still faces are enormous, and a lot of work must be done. That is why Somalia needs the continued support and solidarity of the international community as it strives to overcome those challenges. I would like to conclude with some words of my Prime Minister from his remarks at the London Conference last week, when he said that

> "[w]e in the region would continue to shed our blood, pay immense sacrifices and do whatever is just and necessary to restore the long-sought-after peace and tranquillity in Somalia and across the region. There is no greater contribution, no greater solidarity than this."

Mr. Fesko (Ukraine): At the outset, I would like to welcome the outcome of the London Conference on Somalia. The security pact and the new partnership agreement between the international community and Somalia should be seen as a genuine road map for donor countries in supporting Somalia's progress in a number of areas that the Federal Government has defined as priorities. We hope that their implementation will accelerate Somalia's progress towards lasting peace and prosperity by 2020. At a time when more than 6 million Somalis are in need of assistance owing to malnutrition and food insecurity, and with more than 1 million at risk of starvation, it is critical to scale up the humanitarian response to the ongoing drought.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the fact that Al-Shabaab continues to exploit the drought to promote its own objectives and restrict humanitarian access to those in need in areas under its control. Ukraine strongly condemns its recent attacks in Somalia, including the attack on 9 May on the Somali national army base in Goofgaduud district in Baidoa in which at least 13 people were killed. In that regard, improving security by reforming and strengthening the Somali security architecture, embracing both the army and the police, is vital to preventing Somalia's relapse into open conflict and enabling its broader political and economic development.

Mindful of the gravity of the threat posed by Al-Shabaab, we would like to affirm our continued support to the joint efforts and cooperation between the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali national army in their campaign to fight terrorism. With respect to AMISOM's achievements in ensuring security, we support the conditions-based transition from AMISOM to Somali security forces, which should include the implementation of security-sector reforms, as set out in the security pact. We look forward to the recommendations of the United Nations-African Union review of AMISOM ahead of its mandate renewal in July this year.

The political process is another sector that requires the special attention and consolidated efforts by all actors in Somalia and the international community. Further progress in that area is essential to building up a more inclusive federal and democratic State. We fully agree with the Secretary-General's call on both the Federal Government and the Parliament to advance the constitutional review, which is critical to ensuring effective and clear power-sharing among political players, improving the interaction among federal member states and, equally important, achieving a one person, one vote system for the next elections. The strengthening of local governance should also be considered as a matter of high priority. Reconciliation and the establishment of an inclusive administration in Galmudug is a crucial part of that reform, as well as an important step on the path towards a successful conclusion of the country's electoral process. We therefore urge all parties to continue the dialogue aimed at achieving reconciliation, holding inclusive elections and establishing a broad-based administration in Galmudug state.

We commend the work done by AMISOM and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) in supporting peace and reconciliation, advancing the State-building process and promoting human rights in Somalia.

To conclude, let me touch upon the recommendations from the review of the United Nations presence in Somalia after the 2016 electoral process. We share the position of the Secretary-General that, in the next phase of the United Nations, the Organization should support

the Somali-led political and State-building process. In our view, UNSOM should be maintained and allowed to continue its work with a focus on strengthening, and building the capacity of, all Somali regional and local authorities.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank you, Sir, for taking the initiative to convene today's meeting on Somalia. I also thank Mr. Raisedon Zenenga, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, and Mr. Francisco Madeira, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, whose excellent briefings have provided greater clarity in our work.

Today's briefings revealed that Somalia is at a crossroads and that additional national, regional and international efforts are required to meet the formidable challenges the country faces, such as terrorism, insurrection, violent extremism, natural disasters, drought and a humanitarian crisis. In addition, piracy continues to plague Somalia's coast, as the representative of the Russian Federation just recalled.

There is no need for us to reiterate the details. We would simply like to underscore that, despite the challenges, there is still hope, if we look at how far the country has come over the past few decades, even in difficult times. Hope was sparked with the recent election of both Houses of Parliament, and in particular of President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo, who, with courage, clarity and willingness, is patiently guiding his country towards reconstruction and national unity by building security and stability in the country. Some of his achievements include his efforts in finalizing the agreement on a new national security architecture at the federal and regional levels in order to develop well-trained defence and security forces who are accepted by the Somali people and accountable to them. That is why we believe that a political agreement of similar scope could be brokered in order to assist in establishing a functional Federal State, with a Government at the helm that paves the way for crucial one person, one vote general elections in 2020, with a high level of female representation in the various institutions, as well as the participation of the private sector and of the dynamic Somali diaspora.

There is also hope if we consider the excellent outcome of the London Conference. Our colleague Mr. Rycroft just provided an update on the Conference and we congratulate his country on a successful meeting. The London Conference stands out because the international community once again pledged its commitment to continue to support the country. To translate that hope into specific steps on the ground, in particular to achieve sustainable development in the country, which must be anchored in reconciliation, security and lasting stability, the international community as a whole, and the Security Council in particular, must remain engaged by coordinating efforts and strengthening multi-faceted humanitarian, technical or other assistance to Somalia in all areas.

We welcome the fact that this process is being conducted with the participation of the Somali people — for, as Mr. Madeira mentioned, it is important that attention be paid to what the Somalis want, and not what we would like them to want. To that end, the joint African Union-United Nations review on the future of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations presence in the country is crucial. The Mission's exit strategy must go hand in hand with the subsequent capacity-building of the Somali security forces to prevent a vacuum from being created, as the threat remains potent.

We pay tribute to AMISOM and to the Somali defence and security forces for the outstanding work they continue to undertake with United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia teams in a difficult and often dangerous environment to assist and support their country in building the rule of law. However, despite the progress that has been made in countering terrorism, security and humanitarian challenges remain of concern because of Al-Shabaab's residual capacity and the gradual rise in influence of the Islamic State in the region.

Regrettably, in addition to the surge in violence against civilians that has been attributed to Al-Shabaab, children are used in the fighting, humanitarian workers are attacked and aid is diverted and its delivery hampered. Such practices must be condemned and, above all, eliminated. My delegation therefore welcomes the decision taken by the new Federal Government of Somalia to make security sector reform a national priority. That led to an agreement on a federal approach to security, which is the first step in rebuilding the country's security sector. In the same vein, a security pact that aims to lay the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous country was concluded at the

London Conference on Somalia, held on 11 May. The Senegalese delegation welcomes that as a major step forward for the Somali national army, which would shoulder greater responsibility following the future withdrawal of the Mission.

The humanitarian situation continues to worsen at an alarming rate, with the risk of famine and malnutrition. We therefore welcome the steps taken by the international community, which have allowed for a swift response to the situation and better access to food for thousands of people. However, much remains to be done. We encourage international and regional actors to continue to lend coordinated and coherent support to Somalia in order to build on the gains already made.

The fight against corruption, which is cracking down on many sectors of activity, and the improvement of the human rights situation in Somalia, in particular the protection of women and children, must remain a priority for the Somali authorities. In this regard, Senegal supports the zero-tolerance policy initiated by the Somali authorities with regard to the diversion of humanitarian assistance, which is committed to act resolutely against anyone who engages in such acts and practices.

After the success of the legislative and presidential elections, we can say that Somalia is on the right track. Nevertheless, many challenges remain, including addressing the drought, insecurity, the management of public finances, combatting corruption, the need to increase revenue and the need for institutional reforms. My country therefore encourages the international community to continue to support the Somali Federal Government in its efforts aimed advancing these reforms.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Kazakhstan expresses its appreciation to the Uruguayan presidency for convening this meeting, as well as to our briefers, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zenenga and Special Representative Madeira for their comprehensive updates on the situation in Somalia. My delegation would like to make some observations and recommendations as follows.

As the Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, we welcome the successful process of building political institutions and outlining key priorities of the Government's agenda by the leadership of Somalia. However, terrorist organizations continue to exercise their destructive activities. Therefore, it is vitally important to ensure coherent and coordinated support to the country in peacebuilding and nation-building efforts.

The 11 May London Conference on Somalia, co-organized by the Government of the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the African Union (AU), as well as the leadership of Somalia, was historic. We commend the security pact and the new partnership agreement that were reached as outcomes of the Conference. We recommend using its momentum to achieve progress on security sector reform, yet multilateral action to address the ongoing drought and humanitarian crisis is required. International partnership is vital to implementing the political road map for 2020 elections with the one person, one vote formula. We advise that this go in parallel with building State institutions, consolidating the Constitution and promoting inclusive political dialogue.

The progress made across the country would not have occurred without the efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and particularly the bravery of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in combating the increasingly destructive acts of Al-Shabaab. At the same time, the AU report entitled "Ten-Year Lessons Learned Study on AMISOM", as well as the joint strategic review on Somalia and the joint AU-Somalia task force, will provide future directions for bringing about stability and effectiveness. We hope that the upcoming Operation Juba Valley Corridor II will significantly contribute to neutralizing the Al-Shabaab threat. We also suggest that we, as the United Nations system, collectively with the Federal Government and AU, should help to create a strong national security architecture with the needed reforms for the Somali national army and that the police force should assume greater responsibility from AMISOM during the transition.

We consider the security pact, adopted at the London Conference, to be a road map for strengthening the fight against Al-Shabaab militants. My delegation believes that this pact should be the next step towards implementing the April agreement between the Government of Somalia and federal subjects for its defence strategy. At this point of guarded optimism, the security-development nexus needs to be reinforced, so that Somalia's national development plan, with its

focus on economic recovery and stabilization, will be effectively implemented.

The humanitarian situation, caused by the ongoing drought, continues to concern us. We therefore wholeheartedly support the appeal of the Secretary-General for the sum of $900 million needed for the provision of humanitarian aid. At the same time, we note with concern the rising insecurity in the various regional assemblies throughout the country. These should be addressed quickly so that they do not assume national proportions and the instability does not worsen the humanitarian situation and escalate the risk of famine. The active engagement of women and youth is particularly essential.

UNSOM and the Government must work together with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to closely monitor and bring to a halt the human rights abuses against women and children. We encourage AMISOM to deploy and designate protection officers to provide training, capacity-building and advocacy.

Finally, Kazakhstan is ready to join this multilateral effort to bring lasting peace, with a new vision and aspiration, to Somalia.

Mr. Llorentty Soliz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia thanks the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Mr. Madeira, and the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Mr. Zenenga.

We welcome the significant progress that Somalia has made in recent years with regard to the conclusion of the electoral process, leading to the presidential election on 8 February. We are happy to see that for the first time women and young people have greater representation in Parliament.

We underscore the importance of adhering to the political road map to ensure that, by 2020 at the latest, elections based on the one person, one vote principle will be held. We also welcome the decision of President Jubaland to cooperate with the Federal Government and to note that one of his priorities will be to combat the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. In that regard and despite the progress made in Somalia, there are still many challenges, one of which is the fight against terrorism, which remains a threat to the peace and security in the region, as well as the threat of piracy. The Al-Shabaab terrorist group continues to restrict access to those who need help and assistance in the areas under its control.

With regard to international cooperation and political support for Somalia, we welcome the holding of the international London Conference on 11 May where partners committed to supporting the strengthening of national and international security, economic recovery and the preparation of a security pact. We also recognize the important contribution of regional partners, the African Union's participation, including the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), in the transition towards a secure and stable Somalia. We support the position of the Secretary-General that international cooperation is fundamental to maintaining the recent political and security progress, in addition to ensuring consistent and long-term support to develop the institutional capacities of the Somali Government leading to the development of good governance initiatives led by the community.

We are deeply concerned about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, due in large part to the worsening of the drought, which has spread beyond Puntland and Somaliland to southern areas, such as Gedo and Juba Hoose. United Nations data indicates that 6.2 million people are facing acute food insecurity and millions of people require urgent assistance to save their lives. According to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 570,000 new displacements have been caused by the drought since November 2016. The ongoing lack of social security networks and basic services are also increasing the country's vulnerability and the possibility that the crisis could spread further. The international community must urgently respond to these challenges to prevent this serious situation from becoming a famine, such as what happened in 2011, during which, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 250,000 people died, more than half of whom were under five years old.

In conclusion, we would like to recognize the important work of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia. We consider them to be fundamental in building the Somali State, in particular with regard to the processes aimed at strengthening the State and preparing for an electoral process that is inclusive, free, impartial and transparent,

while respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Somalia.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Uruguay.

Uruguay thanks the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Mr. Raisedon Zenenga, and the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Head of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Mr. Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, for their comprehensive and detailed briefings.

Uruguay applauds the results of the London Conference on Somalia, held on 11 May, which resulted in a security pact and a new alliance for Somalia, in support of the Somalia national development plan, establishing an ambitious programme of Somali-led State reform, with the support of the international community over coming years. Uruguay considers it essential to maintain the forward momentum towards positive change in the reconciliation of Somalia. We reaffirm our support for its sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity, so that it can become a democratic, stable and prosperous Somalia.

However, there are many challenges ahead. The threat of piracy remains. Greater progress must be made in the areas of democratization, human rights and the rule of law. Corruption must be addressed, and efforts must be made to reduce poverty and boost economic recovery.

Despite the continued efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), AMISOM and the Somali security forces, Al-Shabaab remains a strong threat. As the Secretary-General indicates in his latest report (S/2017/408), Al-Shabaab has demonstrated the ability to resist and adapt, maintaining a united core despite internal disputes and rifts. Uruguay expresses particular concern for the group's readiness to use violence to hamper relief efforts directed at civilians and humanitarian workers, including the United Nations.

Uruguay believes that one of the main priorities is to strengthen the Somali national security forces and improve their capacity to work with AMISOM in the fight against Al-Shabaab. Somali security sector reform, as well as the reform of the campaign to defeat Al-Shabaab, are a matter of urgency, especially in the light of the AMISOM plan to start its transition in Somalia in October 2018. Uruguay recognizes the contribution being made by AMISOM in Somalia, and highlights how important it is that the African Union continue to participate in the transition to a safe and stable Somalia.

My country also believes it is urgent to address the serious humanitarian situation in Somalia caused by the ongoing drought and risk of famine. That has been exacerbated by years of conflict and insecurity, and has the potential to derail political progress and the legitimacy of federal and State institutions. Coordinated efforts must be intensified to meet immediate needs and strengthen resilience in future.

Uruguay also believes it is essential to ensure forward movement in the constitutional review process and to conclude the establishment of the federal State, with the support of UNSOM. If well managed, the constitutional review process will promote national unity, address the root causes of conflict and instability, and offer a significant opportunity for the reconciliation of the Somali people. Uruguay emphasizes in particular the need to protect civilian populations, especially children, women and older persons, and encourages the Federal Government of Somalia to seek mediation and stability, especially in areas where access to supplies and humanitarian aid is vital.

Although all death sentences rendered against children in the State Puntland have been revoked, it is still very worrying that the death penalties have been commuted into lengthy prison terms. Uruguay urges the authorities of Puntland to comply with their commitments to revoke the penalties, facilitate the release of the children and to continue to work with the United Nations on their reintegration. Uruguay also requests the authorities of Puntland to revoke all death sentences against children rendered by civil and military tribunals and to, with the support of the United Nations, urgently develop a juvenile justice system in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as established by the Secretary-General in his latest report.

Uruguay is also alarmed by the cases of sexual violence, internally displaced women and girls, and members of minority clans, which are particularly vulnerable. It is essential to improve the legal framework, human-rights protection systems and the capacity and legitimacy of institutions to help combat impunity, improve accountability for human rights

violations and encourage reconciliation. Uruguay calls for the respect of the highest international human rights standards to address abuses and the excessive use of force against the civilian population.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Yusuf (Somalia): I thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity to speak today. I am honoured to address the Council on behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend your predecessor's leadership in guiding the work of the Council for the month of April.

The successful conclusion of the electoral process in Somalia on 8 February marked a change and a new direction for our country. Last week in London, we witnessed the commitment of many of our friends and partners to support this new direction, and we stand ready to carry out our part. President Farmajo has pledged to work tirelessly to improve security, to build democratic institutions and to improve the daily lives of Somali citizens. He has committed to spare no effort to fight Somalia's three major enemies: terrorism, corruption and poverty.

To deliver this ambitious agenda the President has appointed a capable and experienced Prime Minister, and an inclusive Cabinet that includes five female ministers — the largest in our history — and many young ministers representing 85 per cent of our population who are under the age of 40. Together with the Cabinet and the Parliament, the President has committed to getting the politics right so as to ensure that politics in Somalia are inclusive, participatory, vibrant and on a level playing field. In that regard, we are committed to solidifying our federal system of governance to pave the way for security apparatuses and focused State-institution building, and are championing the overall reform agenda.

We are a step closer to this objective through the recent historic formation of the new national security council, which includes all federal member states. The national security council is not only a platform for dialogue on security issues, but on broader matters of national importance. We are already engaged in a dialogue on the sharing of natural and national resources. This and other areas will be discussed in the context of the constitutional review process.

Security remains an urgent question for Somalia. The historic new national security architecture and the security pact give us the tools to strengthen the Somali national army and introduce an improved policing model. The Council's ongoing support to our security objectives and UNSOM's coordinating role is invaluable to this process.

Today, our brave men and women in uniform, together with the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), are locked in symmetrical battles with the terrorist group, Al-Shabaab. Without AMISOM forces, who are supplied with heavy weaponry, we would not have been able to counter Al-Shabaab's threat effectively.

The long-standing arms embargo on Somalia severely restricts our ability to procure heavy weapons, despite the partial lifting of the embargo in 2013. In that regard, we are ready to work with our partners and the Council to develop a clearly defined road map toward the full lifting of the arms embargo. This would include the improvements we must make to our weapons management, command and control systems. Somalia will continue to work to defeat Al-Shabaab in the next few years. Once we recover the remaining territories and secure supply routes, we will stabilize the country by building local administrations, in collaboration with the federal member states.

We are grateful to all our partners for their unwavering and sustained security-sector support over the years. Many provide financial support, while others provide technical and logistical support. In particular, Somalia dedicates special gratitude to AMISOM. Its peacekeepers have been working with us for 10 years, and during that time they have sacrificed many lives in the quest to help Somalia defeat Al-Shabaab and rebuild our security forces.

I would like to draw the Council's attention to the desperate plight of the Somali Government and the Somali population in the face of the ongoing humanitarian crisis. According to United Nations specialized agencies, the crisis is deepening and an elevated risk of famine persists in some parts of Somalia today. Despite the unprecedented generosity of the past few months, we still urgently need sustained early donor contributions and commitment to saving

the lives of our most vulnerable children, women and elderly, who constitute 70 per cent of the victims of the drought. Moreover, Somalia needs support in its efforts in macroeconomic reform, which will give the country access to financing to support State-building and long-term development programmes. This is also critical to breaking the cycle of recurring humanitarian crises.

As my President said at the London Conference on Somalia, for too long the conventional wisdom has been that Somalia's State is failing. President Farmajo's Administration is committed to seizing this opportunity to change that narrative and to nurture and deliver on a better, stronger and more prosperous Somalia. Despite the many challenges, none is insurmountable. We once again thank the Council for its long-standing support for peace, stability and development in Somalia. We are certain that we will only go forward towards progress and prosperity, as is the will of the Somali people and the priority of its Government.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.